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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-9 and 12-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicant AMENDS claims 12, 14-16 and 18 and CANCELS claim 11.

Applicant greatly appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 2-9 are allowed, and that claims 15 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has amended claim 15 to be in independent form including all of the features of base claim 11. In addition, Applicant has canceled claim 11, and amended claims 12, 14, 16 and 18 to be dependent upon allowable claim 15.

Claims 11-14, 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takane et al. (U.S. 6,121,851).

As noted above, Applicant has amended claim 15 to be in independent form including all of the features of base claim 11, canceled claim 11, and amended claims 12, 14, 16 and 18 to be dependent upon allowable claim 15.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 11-14, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Takane et al. is moot.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-9 and 12-18 are allowable.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions the Commissioner for a One-month extension of time, extending to March 2, 2005, the period for response to the Office Action dated November 2, 2004.

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The Commissioner is authorized to charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1353.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: February 23, 2005

  
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